

Town of Mansfield
Energy Education Team
Minutes of Meeting
April 12, 2011

Present: Dan Britton (chair), Coleen Spurlock, Dennison Nash, Don Hoyle, Pene Williams, Madeline Priest (Neighbor to Neighbor), Dave Nelson (guest), Cathy White (guest), Miriam Kurland (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the March 8, 2011 were approved.

Pene reported that much of the 20by2010 Clean Energy Google Group e-mail discussion has centered on green building requirements for residential construction. It was suggested that one of the Neighbor to Neighbor workshops focus on green building/green retrofits for contractors and residents.

Don stated that on May 6 & 7, 2011 he will be attending "Partnering with a Green God: Calling People of Faith to Environmental Ministry," a two day program sponsored by the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ. The keynote speaker is Bill McKibben. With 20 different workshops being offered, Don will attend one on transition towns and another on our transgenic food supply.

Madeline reported that the official launch of the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge on March 22nd received excellent press coverage. Governor Dan Malloy, Representative Joe Courtney and DEP Commissioner Dan Esty were in attendance. The local launch for Mansfield, Lebanon & Windham is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Windham Textile Museum and Garden on the Bridge. Bob Kremer from Glenridge Cooperative has agreed to do a lighting program during one of the community's coffee hours. The Unitarian Universalists are planning a Neighbor to Neighbor presentation during a Sunday service. Madeline will meet with all the elementary and middle school enrichment teachers in June. Jeff and Jenna spoke to the Garden Gate Club. A Home Energy Basics presentation is being planned for residents in June and is being publicized through the Parks and Recreation summer brochure. Neighbor to Neighbor has put out a request for proposals for Home Energy Solutions energy auditors. (Currently, Neighbor to Neighbor is working with the energy auditors that have been selected by CL&P.) The energy auditors who are chosen will also need to have working relationships with contractors that specialize in energy efficiency. Ginny stated that the link to the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge is on the Mansfield website home page.

For Earth Day Ginny reported that she is borrowing a portable photovoltaic panel from the Clean Energy Fund for UConn's Spring Fling on Thursday, April 21 and for the Storrs Farmers Market on Saturday, May 14. Staff from Neighbor to Neighbor will be present at both events. The May 14 Storrs Farmer's Market will feature the Neighbor to

Neighbor energy challenge, the Kirby Mill hydro project, the CleanEnergyOptions program and the portable solar panel.

The Team revisited draft goals that were developed May 13, 2010. Work has been in progress for gathering baseline information on municipal energy consumption. Ginny reported that through the work of student interns, the baseline data for municipal energy consumption is almost complete. The Sustainability Committee will be reviewing the information at their April meeting. Ginny will work with CL&P to get a baseline count of the number and size of renewable energy systems in Mansfield. Through the effort of the Neighbor to Neighbor staff, CL&P will be providing Mansfield's total residential energy consumption. It was suggested that net zero houses and ductless heat pumps be included in the workshop series.

Ginny discussed with the Energy Education Team if the Town should join the EPA's Energy Star Community Energy Challenge, designed to promote energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy in New England towns. Members thought the Town of Mansfield should participate in the EPA challenge as a way to link into grant opportunities, receive assistance with portfolio manager and be recognized for its efforts. The Town has already taken some of the steps, including assessing the Town's municipal energy use through Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Ginny will discuss this with the Town Manager, Director of Public Works and Director of Maintenance.

Ginny reported that a ribbon cutting is being scheduled for the end of May at E. O. Smith High School for the additional 4 kilowatts of PV panels now operating on the school's roof (a total of 7 kilowatts).

The Energy Education Team discussed whether to host another lighting sale. Some new products, including LED lights, are now available. Since Neighbor to Neighbor is offering free lighting retrofits and the LED lights are still very expensive, it was decided to forego the lighting sale. Ginny will work with Madeline to promote the lighting retrofit program. Lighting retrofits will be included as part of the workshop series.

Dennison reported on the progress of the Juniper Hill Village photovoltaic system. Don will let the Team know when they are having a ribbon cutting.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton